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WEDNESDAY
JULY 3, 2013

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

JULY 3
Pal Play Group
WEDNESDAY (9:30-11 a.m.) No-cost playgroup meets for children (0-2 years) at Alta Vista Alternatives, 415 S. Indiana. Information: 719-846-4400.
Economic Development
THURSDAY (3 p.m.) Trinidad and Las Animas County Board of Directors will meet at 134 West Main Street, Suite 23 (Bell Block). Information: Steven Kelly, 719-846-9412.

JULY 4
HOLIDAY CLOSURES
The Chronicle-News Office will be closed Thursday for the 4th of July holiday. The paper will be delivered as usual with no interruption of service.

The City of Trinidad, Las Animas County, Carnegie Library and the Landfill will be closed Thursday, Friday and Saturday for the July 4 holiday.

SCCOG the South Central Council of Governments and affiliates will be closed Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day.

The City Swimming Pool will be closed Thursday, but will re-open Friday for normal hours.

PUBLIC SERVICE
FREE SUMMER LUNCHES
MONDAY-FRIDAY (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) Through August 2, free lunches for kids and teens under 18 will be provided in the Trinidad Middle School Cafeteria, 614 Park St. Adults can eat for \$3. Information: 719-845-2051.

Gala Art Evening
FRIDAY (5-8 p.m.) The Mitchell Museum will host the opening of the "Black & White" art show, which will run through July 26 (Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.). No admission and the public is invited to attend. Information: Sharon Galbraith, 719-846-8564.

Trinidad Lake State Park
 North park entry is off Highway 12, west of Trinidad. Park information: 719-846-6951.

FRIDAY (8 p.m.) Ranger Campfire Talk every Friday thru Labor Day in the amphitheatre.

SATURDAY (3 p.m.) Youth Archery Program with Bob Holder will be held in Carpois Cove parking lot area. Event includes, target practice, fun shoot and 3-D shoot. Equipment will be provided.

SATURDAY (7 p.m.) "Pick 'n Grim 'Round the Campfire," a family event will be held with singer and guitar player Kevin Crosby in the amphitheatre. Bring your own marshmallow or share some of ours.

Farmers' Market
SATURDAY (8 a.m.-Noon) 13th Annual Trinidad Farmers' Market will be open until mid-October in Cimino Park on Modica Drive. Information: 719-846-7386.

Art in the Park
SATURDAY (10 a.m.-5 p.m.) Le Veta's Spanish Peaks Arts Council will host its 38th annual Art in the Park show in the town park. There is no admission to this event; parade will be at 11 a.m. with community barbecue to follow. Information: 719-742-3074.

Guadalupe Society
SUNDAY: Potluck dinner will be held after 11 a.m. Mass and Rosary at Holy Trinity Church with dinner at Holy Family Hall. Questions, call Rose Mestas at (719) 846-3647.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
JULY 8: Call for artists for the "Local Landscapes" art show to be held at the Corazon Gallery, 149 E. Main Street. Event runs July 11-August 2. Pick up entry forms at the gallery. Information: Trish Keck, 719-846-0207.

Free Dental Screening
JULY 11 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) Dr. Dennis Driscoll will provide child preventative dental screenings and fluoride varnishing at the Las Animas County Health Department, 412 Benedicta Ave. To schedule your child's appointment call: 719-846-2213.

Recycle Event
JULY 26-27: FRIDAY (8 a.m.-6 p.m.) SATURDAY (8 a.m. to noon) Las Animas County recycle event at Waste Connections, 2600 Freedom Road. Information: ReGroup, 719-845-8218.

Fire Department Benefit
UNTIL AUGUST 31: The Spanish Peaks FPD Auxiliary will be selling raffle tickets for a custom made Palmer Bow Co. "Traditional Slam" recurve winter bow autographed by Fred Eichler. Information: 719-941-4107 or go to www.spbefpd.org and click on Custom Bow Raffle.

Donations Needed
Fisher's Peak Fire Protection District Auxiliary is seeking donations (except clothing) for their annual garage sale fundraiser and can be delivered to the Starkville Fire Station, take exit 11 south off I-25 to Starkville. Date of event to be announced.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 07/02/13. Johns Flood ditch priority #20 -- Appropriation date: 10/07/1865.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting
 Release 97.19 cfs
 Inflow 125.42 AF - 63.23 cfs
 Evaporation 6.23 AF
 Content 9,683 AF
 Elevation 6,164.91
 Precipitation 0

Downstream River Call
 Burns & Duncan ditch -- 01/01/1866



Tourist officials expecting busy holiday

By Pankaj Khadka
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad is filling up for the Fourth of July, with state park officials and local hotel operators expecting to be booked for the Independence Day weekend.

Pat Patrick, seasonal ranger at Trinidad Lake State Park, said the park's campgrounds are almost all booked for the weekend already with just a few picnic spaces remaining available.

"We will be full for the weekend. I think we already are. But there'll be plenty of room for boats, shoreline fishermen. And the wildlife fishing this past week was fantastic," said Patrick.

Patrick expects most of the visitors at the state park are from the Front Range and neighboring states because people want to get away for the holiday but don't want to spend much because of the economy.

Trinidad Lake State Park has been booked for the Fourth for several years now, especially when the holiday falls toward the end of the week like it does this year, he said.

"When the holidays are closer to the end of week, people tend to take a four-day weekend. Like last year, it was right in the middle of the week, so people couldn't take off as much. This year, people will take Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday as their holiday," he said.

Continued on page 2



Michael Hiesiger/The Chronicle-News

A sign hanging over Interstate 25 in Trinidad warns drivers to be aware that restrictions are in place throughout the state because the Western drought has created dangerous fire conditions.

Fire officials urging caution over Fourth

By Pankaj Khadka
The Chronicle-News

Area fire department chiefs are reminding residents about the need to take precautions while celebrating the Fourth of July because of the continuing threat of wildfires.

Las Animas County, including

the city of Trinidad, remains under a Stage 1 Fire Ban that has been in effect since 2003 because of continuing drought conditions that have crippled southeastern Colorado's agriculture industry and kept the threat level high for wildfires.

Las Animas County Sheriff

Jim Casias, who is also the county's fire marshal, said the ban means that no campfires are allowed in any areas other than designated camp sites like the ones at Trinidad Lake State Park.

Casias said campers and backyard cooks can use propane grills

Continued on page 2

Balloon rally returning to fill skies over Raton

By Tim Keller
Special to The Chronicle-News

RATON — After flying annually from 1994 through 2010, the International Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally returns to Raton this weekend after a break triggered by the 2011 Track Fire.

Raton MainStreet has assumed leadership of the event, led by rally director Christine Valentini.

Saturday and Sunday activities include pancake breakfasts, a downtown parade, a balloon-themed art show, a live radio broadcast and DJ music. The daily highlight will be the mass ascension of 15 hot air balloons at sunrise each morning, filling the sky over Raton.

The event is popular with pilots, photographers, and spectators because of the beautiful Rocky Mountain backdrop and the close access to the balloons available at Raton's La Mesa Airfield southwest of town.

The Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally began with an 18-year-old's wish. Californian Jarrod Giacomo had multiple sclerosis but dreamed of floating above the earth in a hot air balloon. The best his family could find for him in California was a tethered ride for \$400.

Giacomo spent the summers with his grandmother in Raton where his uncle, Chuck Henry, arranged a balloon ride for him with his Albuquerque pilot friend, Bruce Hale. Giacomo was unable to travel to Albuquerque so Hale brought his balloon to Raton.

"Jarrod got his ride that lasted almost two hours," Balloon Life magazine reported three years later. "Bruce and his crew had such a great time in Raton with flying and fishing and hospitality that they decided to do an annual event. Thus the Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally was born."

Sponsored by International Bank, with other businesses sponsored

Continued on page 3



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Above, a balloon fires up during a recent media event to promote this weekend's Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally in Raton. Fifteen balloons will take part in the rally Saturday and Sunday, which will begin at the La Mesa Airfield. At left, a balloon drifts over the mesa-studded plains in sight of the Rocky Mountains.

Weather Sponsored by:

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 719-845-0102

WEATHER WATCH

Today: Partly cloudy with isolated storms. Highs around 77°F. South south-

west wind 5 to 13 MPH, gusting to 17 MPH. Chance of precipitation near 30%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with isolated storms. Lows around 52°F. East south-east wind to 9 MPH.

Thursday: Partly cloudy with isolated storms. Highs around 82°F. North wind 3

to 9 MPH, gusting to 13 MPH. Chance of precipitation near 20%.

Thursday night: Partly cloudy with isolated storms. Lows around 57°F. West southwest wind to 10 MPH.



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Oklahoma pilot Royce Miller is silhouetted by the rising sun as he helps inflate Ajuua Dreamer, piloted by his friend Tom Gardner of Albuquerque. Gardner is the official balloonmeister of the 2013 International Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally in Raton Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Balloon Continued from page 1

sorsoring individual balloons, the rally fielded as many as 32 balloons some years. Raton MainStreet intends to grow the annual event back to that size says Valentini, whose involvement goes back to 1997 when she became hooked on helping the balloon crews and chase vehicles. Each morning, several of the balloon pilots draft local spectators to help, which includes getting the balloon open and aloft, then chasing it to wherever it comes down.

Balloon sponsors are assured a balloon ride, but sometimes a volunteer crew member gets lucky with an opportunity to go aloft.

This year, International Bank continues its event sponsorship, with Northern New Mexico Gas Company sponsoring the propane that fuels the flights. Balloon sponsors are RBS True Value Hardware, Raton Rodeo Association, The White House Saloon, Friends of Raton Recycles, Two-Way Electronics Radio Shack, Larry McQueary

CPA, and "In Memory of Jan P. Strnad."

Organizations pairing up to co-sponsor balloons are Vermejo Park Ranch, Title Services, Friends of Poetry Rocks!, Quest Realty, Pegasus Flight Services, Marty Mayfield Photography, and the Colfax County Senior Center.

The action begins early, at 5 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, with a pancake breakfast provided by Raton Kiwanis Club. DJ Ted Romero will spin music from that hour and Saturday morning KRTN-FM 93.9 will broadcast live from the event, including pilot interviews.

The mass ascensions are scheduled for 6 a.m., although the exact time is sometimes adjusted according to wind conditions. This year's pilots and their balloons are Royce Miller in Green Hornet, Gerry Graff in Lofty, Tom Gardner in Ajuua Dreamer, Gregory Garcia in Good Grief, Kenneth Paulk in Ducky, and Roger Hoppe in Volcanic Motion.

Others are Dave Aley in Dreaming in Color, Clarke O'Byrne in Viento Encantado, Neal Smith in First Light, David Fox in Ship O' Fools, Bill Dimmitt in Sunrise Angel, Linda Bonney in High Hopes, Cliff Keller in Lily, Keith Lutz in Sky Pirate, and Ken Ferguson in Firefly. Miller hails from Guymon, OK; the other pilots bring their balloons from Albuquerque or other spots in central NM.

Balloonmeister Tom Gardner's Ajuua Dreamer is featured in a special balloon-themed art show, "Up, Up, and Away," at Old Pass Gallery on South First Street, sponsored by Raton Arts and Humanities Council. The show will be up through July, with a reception Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Balloon pilots and their crews will join local organizations and businesses in a 4th of July celebration parade on First Street downtown at 1 p.m. Saturday. Titled "All American Weekend on the



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Balloonmeister Tom Gardner, left, and Royce Miller enjoy the quiet and the view as they drift south from Raton in Gardner's Ajuua Dreamer hot air balloon.

Santa Fe Trail," the parade will pass many open businesses on burgeoning First Street before ending at Ripley Park.

La Mesa Airfield is 26 miles and 30 minutes south

of Trinidad. Take I-25 south to the last Raton exit, 450. After the cloverleaf, turn left immediately on N.M. 555, York Canyon Road. Continue 1.5 miles; the air-

field and balloon rally are on the left.

Additional information is available from Christine Valentini at (575) 445-9551 or cvalentini@cityofraton.com

More than 20 homes flooded near site of last year's Waldo Canyon fire

Associated Press

MANITOU SPRINGS, Colo. — What was warned about for months since last year's deadly Waldo Canyon Fire in Colorado Springs finally happened: flash flooding near the burn scar that shoved debris into homes and moved vehicles.

More than a half inch of rain fell in less than 20 minutes Monday, causing mud to flow into 20 houses in Manitou Springs and western Colorado Springs. The downpour over the burn scar forced more than 160 people to briefly evacuate a low-lying trailer park, and it also closed U.S. 24 for several hours.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Kalina said the damage could have been much

worse if the storm had settled over the area. He said 0.59 inches of rain fell in less than 20 minutes.

"That's pretty intense rain rate, and that helped to cause the issues that we're seeing today," Kalina said.

"It was raining buckets and all of a sudden I heard this freight train," Tina Webber, who lives in Manitou Springs, told The Gazette.

"I came running around my house and I see this wall of water with this perfect white mattress on the front of it coming down the canyon."

"It was an 8-foot wall of black debris and boulders and trees. There was no stopping it," Webber said.

The potential for flooding has worried officials

since the June 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire burned 347 homes and killed two people. Authorities have said the fire was human-caused but have released no other findings.

El Paso County, Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs have held briefings for residents on the threat of flash flooding in the burn scar area.

In June, the U.S. Agriculture Department said it was sending nearly \$20 million to repair watersheds and mitigate flood potential in both the Waldo Canyon and High Park Fire burn areas. Work includes mulching, re-seeding and shoring up water channels.

3RD ANNUAL FESTIVAL
at *Mt. Carmel*
Honoring the Fallen Coal Miners

Friday, July 12th		Saturday, July 13th	
5:00pm - 11:00pm		2:00pm - 11:00pm	
5:00pm	Festival Begins Vendors & Entertainment Food & Drink Jana Trantor performs in the Reflection Garden	2:00pm	Festival Begins Vendors & Entertainment Food & Drink Coal Cart Display Babe Ruth's Car American Red Cross Demonstrations
6:30pm	K-Inspire Dance Performance	4:00pm	KCRT's Texaco Country Showdown & Live Remoté
7:30pm	Live Rock & Country Music performed by 451st Army Band of Minnesota	7:30pm	Whisky Creek performs
11:00pm	Festival Closes	11:00pm	Festival Concludes

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\$10 Adults - \$6 Children 8 and Under
Proceeds benefit the Holy Trinity Restoration

For More Information
Call 719-845-4880 mtcarmelcenter.org

GO TEAM, GO!

GOT SPORTS NEWS?

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Anyone can submit sports news!

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